



News from your city



OUT & ABOUT

Meet with the Mayor. Spend time with mayor Jan Mills chatting about any topic at "Meet the Mayor": 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9, West Lafayette Public Library; and 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, at City Hall.

Bike to Work. Join the growing number who are pedaling to work while enjoying the outdoors, pitching in for the environment and exercising. At the suggestion of bicyclist Bill Arthur, who rides six miles to and from Alcoa daily, West Lafayette is encouraging the community by launching "Bike-to-Work" Wednesdays. "It's a wonderful way to start and end your day," Arthur says. Reminder: License your bicycle with the West Lafayette Police Department for a one-time, \$1 fee.

Hitting the Books. From kindergarten to grad school, West Lafayette is a studying bunch! Best wishes to Cumberland's 547 students, Happy Hollow's 462, West Lafayette Junior/Senior High's 997 and Purdue University's 39,228. We join in the community-wide congratulations, "Recognizing Our Lifelong Learners," a new local initiative.

www.city.west-lafayette.in.us. Visit your city's website; we regularly add notices and news.

CITY TRAILS NOW WIND 17 SCENIC MILES

Warming up this fall and winter with a brisk walk or bicycle ride is easy, thanks to West Lafayette's new all-time high of 17 miles of winding, scenic trails.

The latest extension, another mile on the Northwest Greenway Trail dedicated in August (see photo, left), gives the Plaza Park neighborhood and residents at several retirement homes traffic-free access to Sagamore West.

“Since the first stretch of the Wabash Heritage Trail opened in Tapawingo Park in 1993, the city has averaged one mile of new trail a year.”

Jan Mills, Mayor, West Lafayette

More Coming

More is planned yet this fall as the city extends Nighthawk Trail to Sagamore Ridge Apartments.

“We now have nearly a half mile of paved trail for every 1,000 people,” reports Parks and Recreation director Joe Payne. “That’s pretty good relative to most other cities.”

What makes the trail system unique is its interesting, meandering paths. “Our trails connect neighborhoods, parks, businesses, senior living facilities, Purdue University, the research park and bike lanes,” Payne says.

More than 13 miles of trail are paved—Cattail, Northwest Greenway and Wabash Heritage, all designated National Recreation Trails—and the Nighthawk and Trolley Line trails.

Footpaths in Celery Bog Nature Area, Happy Hollow Park and Cumberland Park’s Michaud-Sinninger Woods offer another nearly four miles of mulched trail to explore.

Averaging a Mile a Year

“Since the first stretch of the Wabash Heritage Trail opened in Tapawingo Park in 1993, the city has averaged one mile of new trail a year, most of it funded by grants,” notes mayor Jan Mills. “That reflects well on our commitment to make West Lafayette pedestrian- and bike-friendly.”

For a map showing West Lafayette’s trail system, visit www.city.west-lafayette.in.us.

YOUR CITY AT WORK

Fall Planting. Look for 20 new trees going in near Ace Hardware, Bar Barry Liquors, Gilliland Motors, Sagamore Superwash, Mr. and Mrs. Tire and Regions Bank, funded by the West Lafayette Tree Fund. Also: 100 trees and 1,500 shrubs will go in this fall and next spring at Sagamore West and Northwestern, funded by the Indiana Department of Transportation and TIF district money. And another 150 will be planted under Operation Releaf, reforesting our urban areas, also funded by the Tree Fund.

Youth Council Busy. About 40 West Lafayette students are taking a role in city government. The Youth Council members walked in Hunger Hike, registered voters and are planning a 9-11 Memorial Plaza near the West Lafayette Public Library. Join or learn more from president David Rosenthal, rose.fam@verizon.net.

- Grand Landscapes.** Hats off to the city’s latest Beautification Award winners:
- Patrick and Becky Beck, 2717 Covington, for their array of ornamental grasses, yuccas, hosta, smoke bush, trees and flowers
 - Glen Blackwell and JoAnn Roe, 468 Littleton, for their yard loaded with native perennials, herbs and more
 - Dan and Elizabeth Hartley, 2248 Indian Trail, for their corner lot’s sea of pink and purple summer flowers.

Go, Neighborhoods! Neighborhood associations around town are planning holiday parties, launching new websites (Barbarry Heights: www.barbarry.org) and getting neighbors connected. Get involved. Head to www.city.west-lafayette.in.us for current associations. To start one, contact Neighborhood Coalition volunteer coordinator Patsy Hoyer, 497-0103, p_loves_s@hotmail.com.

Margerum Fountain New Landmark. Stroll by. Rest a bit. Enjoy the new Sonya L. Margerum Fountain in Tapawingo Park at the foot of the pedestrian bridge, dedicated in September to honor your city’s mayor from 1980 to 2004.

Sharing Our Success. Mayor Jan Mills has been invited to present the city’s Wabash Landing success story at the mid-November national conference in Boston: Brownfields 2006, A Revolution in Redevelopment and Revitalization. Her lodging will be funded by a scholarship from the International City/County Management Association, event cosponsor with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Downey Achieves Milestone. Public Works director David Downey earned the Road Builder diploma from the Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program in August. That will mean increased state funding for West Lafayette roads. Downey accumulated 300 credits to earn the diploma, taking a dozen courses and attending conferences and workshops.



Patrick and Becky Beck transformed a “plain and flat” yard into a gardener’s paradise at 2717 Covington.



Art on the Wabash: A Local Artists’ Fair at Tapawingo Park in September.



The community dedicated the Sonya L. Margerum Fountain honoring our mayor of 24 years.



BUDGET THOROUGH BUT LEAN

Crunching numbers took on new meaning this fall as West Lafayette officials pared expenses, addressed short-term annexation costs that will be quickly offset by new tax revenues, and assured continuation of vital city services.

Indiana’s Most Frugal City

“All this was done with a commitment to retaining our enviable standing as the most frugal city of our size in Indiana,” says mayor Jan Mills. That kudo is based on the most recent data for third-class Indiana cities with a population of more than 15,000. “West Lafayette achieved the lowest tax rate, lowest expenditure per person and lowest levy per person,” Mills reports. From property tax revenues, the city spends about \$250 per person on services.

“West Lafayette’s 2007 budget represents a strategic investment of resources for the future.”
Jan Mills, Mayor, West Lafayette

“Even with a cautious eye on spending, we delivered comprehensive services—fire and police protection, street and wastewater services, engineering and community development, parks and recreation, and administration,” Mills said. About 70 percent of the property tax revenue collected will fund public safety—the police and fire departments. About \$1.5 million will be spent on streets, curbs and sidewalks.

2007 Investment in Future

“West Lafayette’s 2007 budget represents a strategic investment of resources for the future,” she said. The budget includes funds for three new firefighters and three new police officers, with the tax rate increasing 2 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

“That will be quickly and permanently offset, however, by new tax payments that will be generated from the 1,173 acres annexed in August,” Mills says.

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HITTING THE STREETS

Safety Along Sycamore Lane. “Safety” is the buzzword as Sycamore Lane improvements are planned. In the works: continuous sidewalks and traffic calming measures. They might be curb bump-outs, raised pedestrian crossings, speed tables, roundabouts, center islands, bus drop-offs or delineated parking. Once the funding commitment for the \$460,000 grant is received, design work begins. “We hope this project can move quickly through state approval so we can begin in 2008,” says city engineer David Buck.

Salisbury Coming Along. Work along Salisbury continues, with residents soon to travel a safer route, bicyclists to have more room and the community to enjoy a more attractive roadway. Retaining walls, universal access ramps, landscaped medians and signal upgrades are being installed from Robinson Street to Riley Lane. Most will be completed this fall, depending on weather. “We’ll probably finish the center islands, asphalt overlay and landscaping in the spring,” says city engineer David Buck.

Citizens Learn About Police Operations. The West Lafayette Police Department offered its first Citizen Police Academy this fall, meeting one evening a week for 11 weeks and

covering dispatch, training, patrol, traffic laws, and criminal and crash investigations, among other topics. Interested in the spring academy? Call 775-5200.

Curb Those Leaves. Through December, the Street Department will pick up leaves that have been raked to the curb. Please rake them into a row, 12 inches from the curb. Don’t cover storm drains, which causes flooding. For pickup schedule, visit www.city.west-lafayette.in.us. After December, place leaves in rigid containers for pickup on scheduled yard waste day.

Recycling Easy. With curbside recycling, a 24/7 drop-off center, and neighborhood park pickups twice a month, recycling is convenient. From 80 to 90 percent of our residents participate, a good number we’d like to bump up. Please sort recyclables and flatten cardboard, which keeps city labor costs down. Need an extra bin? They’re just \$6.50 at the 705 S. River Road recycling center. For more information, call 775-5242.

Sagamore West Area Business Alliance. Team up with other businesses in the Sagamore West area. For information on meetings, contact Beverly Shaw, 765-775-5170, bshaw@city.west-lafayette.in.us.

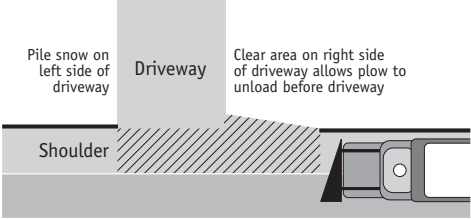
LET IT SNOW? READY THE SHOVELS!

White flurries will soon arrive. West Lafayette requires that snow be removed from sidewalks within six hours after daylight or after snow has stopped falling. Follow these shoveling tips to help traffic flow and snow removal:

- 1. Remove parked cars from streets so snowplows can get close to the curb.
- 2. If possible, shovel after your street has been plowed.
- 3. Clear snow from around your mailbox.
- 4. Shovel sidewalk snow onto your yard.

- 5. Shovel driveway snow onto your lawn on the left side of your drive (facing the driveway). Keep the area to the right of your driveway clear to give the snowplow a place to unload before getting to your driveway. This helps the plow from pushing snow onto your driveway exit.

Please be patient. During snowfalls, we plow main streets. After the snow stops, we hit side streets. Once all streets have at least one clear lane, we return to widen the path.





Hit the ice at Riverside Skating Center beginning November 24, the Friday after Thanksgiving.

WINTER'S COMING!

Find your winter wear and sharpen your skates for the season at the Riverside Skating Center. Or you may want to head for Morton Community Center for indoor activities.

Riverside Opens November 24

Weather permitting, ice skating at Riverside Skating Center, 100 Tapawingo Drive North, begins the Friday after Thanksgiving, with sessions that day from 1 to 3 p.m., 4 to 6 p.m., and 7 to 10 p.m.

The Center will be open at varying hours, seven days a week. For a full schedule, visit www.city.west-lafayette.in.us.

Fun events are planned throughout the winter, too. The first is a \$15 Skate with Santa on Saturday, December 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are required; please call 743-7465.

Morton Offers Year-Round Activities

Winter is also a good time for a dance, art or other class. A full lineup is offered at Morton Community Center, 222 N. Chauncey. Visit www.parks.city.west-lafayette.in.us/morton or call 775-5120.

West Lafayette, Indiana

WESTLAFAYETTENEWS
News from your city

News by Email: To receive city newsletters by email, send your email address to dkervin@city.west-lafayette.in.us.

Jan Mills, Mayor • 765/775-5100
www.city.west-lafayette.in.us

West Lafayette City Hall

609 West Navajo Street

West Lafayette, IN 47906

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